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\*Admitted only in Maryland \*Admitted only in Virginia •Practice Limited to Federal Agencies

April 12, 2006

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Commissioner for Patents PO Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 Art Unit 3611

Attn: Mail Stop Amendment

Re:

U.S. Utility Patent Application

Application No. 10/731,247; Filed: December 10, 2003

For: Frame Structure of a Vehicle

Inventors:

Ohtsuki et al.

Our Ref:

2244.0150000/TGD/JHH

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for appropriate action are the following documents:

- 1. Information Disclosure Statement;
- Two (2) sheets of IDS Forms listing the cited documents: (US1-US5; FP1-FP2 and NPL1);
- 3. Copies of the cited documents (FP1-FP2 and NPL1; and
- 4. Return postcard.

It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the date of filing of these documents, and that it be returned to our courier. In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned.

Sterne, Kessler, Goldstein & Fox PLLC. : 1100 New York Avenue, NW : Washington, DC 20005 : 202.371.2600 f 202.371.2540 : www.skgf.com

Commissioner for Patents April 12, 2006 Page 2

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

Tracy-Gene G. Durkin Attorney for Applicants Registration No. 32,831

TGD/JHH/hmb Enclosures

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## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Ohtsuki et al.

Appl. No.: 10/731,247

Filed: December 10, 2003

For: Frame Structure of a Vehicle

Confirmation No.: 5764

Art Unit: 3611

Examiner: To Be Assigned

Atty. Docket: 2244.0150000/TGD/JHH

## **Information Disclosure Statement**

Mail Stop Amendment

Commissioner for Patents PO Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Listed on accompanying IDS Forms are documents that may be considered material to the examination of this application, in compliance with the duty of disclosure requirements of 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98.

Where the publication date of a listed document does not provide a month of publication, the year of publication of the listed document is sufficiently earlier than the effective U.S. filing date and any foreign priority date so that the month of publication is not in issue. Applicants have listed publication dates on the attached IDS Forms based on information presently available to the undersigned. However, the listed publication dates should not be construed as an admission that the information was actually published on the date indicated.

Applicants reserve the right to establish the patentability of the claimed invention over any of the information provided herewith, and/or to prove that this information may

not be prior art, and/or to prove that this information may not be enabling for the teachings purportedly offered.

This statement should not be construed as a representation that a search has been made, or that information more material to the examination of the present patent application does not exist. The Examiner is specifically requested not to rely solely on the material submitted herewith.

Applicants have checked the appropriate boxes below.

- ☐ 1. Statement under 37 C.F.R. 1.704(d). Each item of information contained in this
  Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from a
  foreign patent office in a counterpart application and this communication was not
  received by any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than thirty
  days prior to the filing of this information disclosure statement.
- 3. Filing under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c). This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date AND after the mailing date

of the first Office Action on the merits, but before the mailing date of a Final Rejection, or Notice of Allowance, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application.

- a. Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1). I hereby state that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1).
- b. Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(2). I hereby state that no item of information in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(2).
- c. Attached is our PTO-2038 Credit Card Payment Form in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ in payment of the fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).
- 4. Filing under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(d) This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date and after the mailing date of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance, but before payment of the Issue Fee.

Enclosed find our PTO-2038 Credit Card Payment Form in the amount of \$ in payment of the fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p); in addition: a. Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1). I hereby state that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1). b. Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(2). I hereby state that no item of information in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(2).

- ∑ 5. The documents were cited in a search report by a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application. Submission of an English language version of the search report that indicates the degree of relevance found by the foreign office is provided in satisfaction of the requirement for a concise explanation of relevance. 1138 OG 37, 38.
- 6. A concise explanation of the relevance of the non-English language document(s) appears below in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3).

⋈ /.	Copies of documents FP1-FP2 and NPL1 are submitted. However, in accordance
	with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(2), no copies of U.S. patents and patent application
	publications cited on the attached IDS Forms are submitted.
□ 8.	Copies of the documents were cited by or submitted to the Office in an IDS that
	complies with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)-(c) in Application No, filed
	, which is relied upon for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C.
	§ 120. Thus, copies of these documents are not attached. 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(d).
<b>9</b> .	It is expected that the examiner will review the prosecution and cited art in the
	parent application no(s) in accordance with MPEP 2001.06(b),
	and indicate in the next communication from the office that the art cited in the
	earlier prosecution history has been reviewed in connection with the present
	application.

It is respectfully requested that the Examiner initial and return a copy of the enclosed IDS Forms, and indicate in the official file wrapper of this patent application that the documents have been considered.

Ohtsuki et al. Appl. No. 10/731,247

- 6 -

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

Tracy-Gene G. Durkin Attorney for Applicants

Registration No. 32,831

Date: \_\_4/12/06

1100 New York Avenue, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20005-3934 (202) 371-2600 519883

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Substitute for form 1449/PTO	Complete if Known	
	Application Number	10/731,247
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE	Filing Date	December 10, 2003
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT	First Named Inventor	Kazuhiko Ohtsuki
(Use as many sheets as necessary)	Art Unit	3611
(000 00 000 000 000 000 000 000 000 000	Examiner Name	To Be Assigned
Sheet 1 of 2	Attorney Docket Number	2244.0150000/ТGD/JHH

Γ				U.S. PATENT DO	CUMENTS	
ſ	Examiner Initials	Cite No. '	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
	·	140.	Number-Kind Code <sup>2 (If Known)</sup>	Min-DD-1111		
$\mathbf{I}$	PE	USI	2,178,331	10/31/1939	Armstrong	
<b>^</b> [		US2	4,628,768	12/16/1986	Omura et al.	
	Z	US3	4,741,227	05/03/1988	Yamada et al.	
1	2 2006	US4	6,419,041 B1	07/16/2002	Nemoto	
	<u>u</u>	US5	2002/0007698 A1	01/24/2002	Matsufuji	
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Examiner Initials*	Cite No.1	Foreign Patent Document  Country Code' Number' Kind Code' (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	Te
	FP1	JP04-171346	10/30/1990	Iseki & Co Ltd		
	FP2	DE 195 19 227 A1	12/21/1995	Kanzaki Kokyukoki Mfg. Co., Ltd.		
	FP3					
	FP4					
	FP5					Ш
	FP6					Ш
	FP7					Ш
	FP8					
	FP9					

Examiner	Date	-	
Signature	Considered		

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. 'Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). 'See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. 'Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). 'For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. 'Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. 'Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

PTO/SB/08B (07-05)

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Substitute for form 1449/PTO				Complete if Known		
				Application Number	10/731,247	
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (Use as many sheets as necessary)			CLOSURE	Filing Date	December 10, 2003	
			PLICANT	First Named Inventor	Kazuhiko Ohtsuki	
				Art Unit	3611	
	•			Examiner Name	To Be Assigned	
Sheet	. 2	of	2	Attorney Docket Number	2244.0150000/TGD/JHH	

		Non Patent Literature Documents				
Examiner Initials*	Examiner   Cite   Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title					
:	NPL1	European Search Report for EP Patent Application No. 03027752.9, pgs. 2-5.				
	NPL2					
	NPL3					
	NPL4					
	NPL5					
	NPL6		-			
	NPL7					
	NPL8	·	-			
	NPL9					
	NPL10	<b>:.</b>				

Examiner	Date	
Signature	Considered	

<sup>\*</sup>EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and

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